

# AIRGRAM

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Falkland Islands  
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## HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : Amembassy LONDON

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FROM : Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

DATE: 16 July 1971

SUBJECT : Falkland Islands (Malvinas) Talks

pol 32-6 Falk IS

REF : BA-3214

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Pol 19 Falk IS

1. Enclosed for the Department is a copy in Spanish of the Joint Declaration of July 1 on the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) talks between the GOA and the British Government, a draft copy of the proposed travel document to be issued by the GOA to residents of the islands wishing to travel to the Argentine mainland and mainland residents wishing to visit the islands, and an exchange of notes which expresses that neither government renounces any claims to sovereignty over the islands by adhering to the joint declaration, which can be unilaterally denounced giving six months notice.

2. A British Embassy officer told us the meetings involved tough, quiet bargaining, frequently outside of plenary sessions. The British found the Argentines quite forthcoming in their desire to win over the islanders and the climate of the talks was very positive in this regard.

3. The Director General of Malvinas Affairs in the Argentine Foreign Ministry told the reporting officer July 15 that the talks scheduled for next year in Port Stanley will concentrate on resolving problems which will undoubtedly arise over the agreement on communications and transportation. He was basically optimistic that the Argentine weekly flights to the islands and the opportunity to purchase Argentine goods much more cheaply now that they need not be transshipped via Montevideo will have a significant impact on the islanders. However, he estimated that "many years" must pass before the sovereignty issue can be resolved, pointing out that the present agreement, while in appearances a sweeping change of the status quo, is only a preliminary step toward sovereignty discussions, and it took seven years to achieve. The Director General expressed the hope that an airfield will soon be

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constructed by British Army Engineers, thus enabling a switch from the small, slow Albatross amphibians to swifter, larger Fokker Friendships.

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